



B5 - Updates and Insights

A Morning with
the Technical Subcommittee on Encoded Archival Standards (TS EAS)

Session chair: Karin Bredenberg, Co-chair TS EAS

ARCHIVES★RECORDS
CHICAGO, IL | HYBRID
AUGUST 14TH–17TH 2024 | HILTON CHICAGO

What will be covered?

- Brief introduction to TS EAS
- Ongoing standards work
 - Revision of the Encoded Archival Description (EAD) standard
 - Creation of new EAS standard for describing functions and activities
- Open mic

ARCHIVES★RECORDS
CHICAGO, IL | HYBRID
AUGUST 14TH–17TH 2024 | HILTON CHICAGO

Brief introduction to TS EAS

ARCHIVES★RECORDS
CHICAGO, IL | HYBRID
AUGUST 14TH–17TH 2024 | HILTON CHICAGO

Committee Overview

- Currently maintains two XML encoding standards:
 - EAD (collections) and EAC-CPF (creators)
 - All have schemas and Tag Libraries
- Committee history: approved in 2015 and formed in 2016
- An international committee
- Twenty members as of today, operating in nine different time zones
 - 5 members rotating off
 - ? reappointments, ? new SAA, ? new international and 1 new early-career member
 - + liaisons and ex-officios

ARCHIVES★RECORDS
CHICAGO, IL | HYBRID
AUGUST 14TH–17TH 2024 | HILTON CHICAGO

Mary Samouelian	Karin Bredenberg, Sydarkivera (she, her, hers, and herself)	Glenn	Marie Elia	Dia
Mark Custer	Janaya Kizzie	Lara Michels (she/her)	Venkat Srinivasan	 TS EAS 2023-2024
Elizabeth Russey Roke (she/her)	Iris Lee	Alexander Duryee (he/him)	Lydia Tang (she/her)	
Cory Nimer	Martin Critelli	Yanlin Li	Otshidile Patience Tshegetsang	



AUGUST 14TH–17TH 2024 | HILTON CHICAGO



TS EAS

- Four committee-wide meetings per year
- Multiple sub teams
 - Published team notes ([Team notes](#))
- Multiple communication formats
 - TS-EAS listserv (ead@listserv.loc.gov)
 - E-mail to TS-EAS forwarded to the co-chairs (ts-eas@archivists.org)
 - GitHub for meeting minutes, schemas, and committee documentation (<https://github.com/SAA-SDT>)
- Our handbook ([Handbook](#))
- Our webpage ([TS EAS microsite](#))

ARCHIVES★RECORDS
CHICAGO, IL | HYBRID
AUGUST 14TH–17TH 2024 | HILTON CHICAGO

Contacting TS EAS

- E-mail to TS-EAS forwarded to the co-chairs, ts-eas@archivists.org
- GitHub
 - Schema problems, <https://github.com/SAA-SDT/eas-schemas>
 - TL problems, <https://github.com/SAA-SDT/EAS-TagLibraries>
- Webform, <https://www2.archivists.org/standards/TS-EAS-report-an-issue>

Standards revision

- Annual rolling revision cycle for minor releases
 - GitHub, <https://github.com/SAA-SDT/TS-EAS-subteam-notes/blob/master/rolling-revision-cycle.md>
- Evaluate standards for potential major revision every five years following guidelines by SAA's Standards Committee
 - <https://www2.archivists.org/governance/handbook/section7/groups/Standards/Development-and-Review>

Splitting the work into teams

- TS EAS has separated the work into subteams
- Subteams meet from once a month to when needed
- The subteams handle their notes (GitHub) and meetings on their own
- The Outreach team works for and with all the teams

The teams

- EAD, Lead Kerstin Arnold
- EAC-CPF, Lead Marie Elia
- EAC-F, Lead Karin Bredenberg
- Schema, Lead Mark Custer
- Outreach, Lead Cory Nimer
- Ad-hoc teams including Relations to other standards, Lead as needed

ARCHIVES★RECORDS
CHICAGO, IL | HYBRID
AUGUST 14TH–17TH 2024 | HILTON CHICAGO

Current work

- Webinar and tutorials series, thanks to our Outreach team!
 - Check out [SAA's YouTube channel](#)
- EAD major revision process on-going
 - More later
- EAC-CPF version 2 in maintenance
 - More later
- EA?F? work with functions ready for a first call for comments
 - More later

Current EAS standards work

ARCHIVES★RECORDS
CHICAGO, IL | HYBRID
AUGUST 14TH–17TH 2024 | HILTON CHICAGO

A note on RiC

- RiC (Records in Context) was released in December 2023
- ICA (International Council of Archives) new standard for describing archives
- EAS standards will become a way of expressing RiC through XML
- Minor adoptions like linkage to vocabularies have been introduced already
- More work will be made when more parts of RiC is released and new versions of the EAS standards will be released following the EAS revision cycles

ARCHIVES★RECORDS
CHICAGO, IL | HYBRID
AUGUST 14TH–17TH 2024 | HILTON CHICAGO

EAC-CPF

- Version 2 released 3 August 2022
- Maintenance and review phase
- Follows the EAD revision closely
- Documentation
 - Tag Library, <https://eac.staatsbibliothek-berlin.de/schema/v2/eac.html>
 - Website, <https://eac.staatsbibliothek-berlin.de/>
 - Best Practice Guide (GitHub): <https://saa-sdt.github.io/EAS-Best-Practices/>

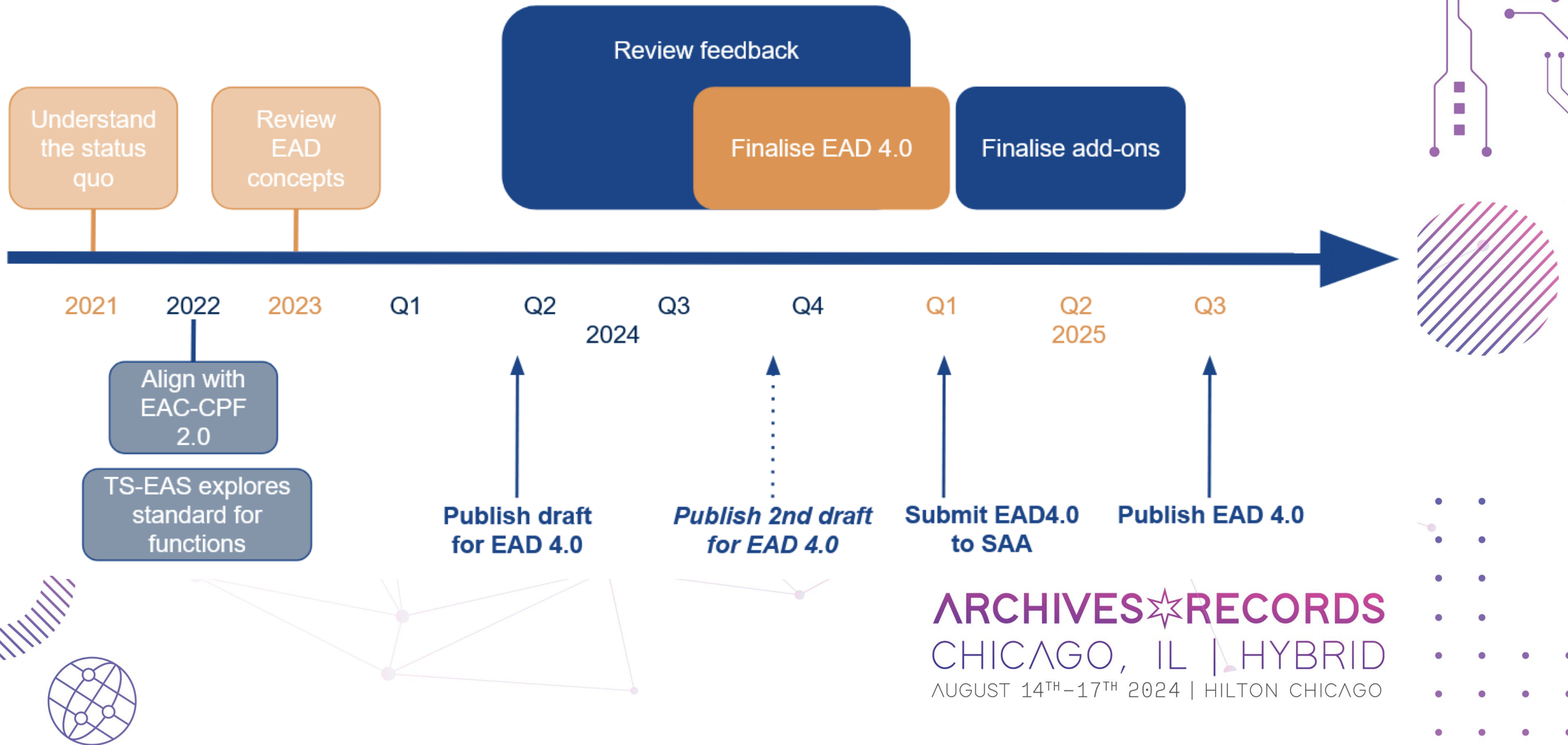
Revision of the Encoded Archival Description (EAD) standard

ARCHIVES★RECORDS
CHICAGO, IL | HYBRID
AUGUST 14TH–17TH 2024 | HILTON CHICAGO

EAD starting point

- Version 3 released 2015
- Maintenance and review phase
- Documentation
 - Tag Library, <https://www.loc.gov/ead/EAD3taglib/EAD3-TL-eng.html>
 - Website, <https://www.loc.gov/ead/>
 - Best Practice Guide (GitHub): <https://saa-sdt.github.io/EAS-Best-Practices/>

Timeline



Benefits of EAD 4.0

*Developed by and for cultural heritage
professionals around the world.*



ARCHIVES★RECORDS
CHICAGO, IL | HYBRID
AUGUST 14TH–17TH 2024 | HILTON CHICAGO



1 Interoperable

Aligns EAD with EAC-CPF 2.0.

Enhances interoperability across standards.

Allows greater data reuse.

ARCHIVES★RECORDS
CHICAGO, IL | HYBRID
AUGUST 14TH–17TH 2024 | HILTON CHICAGO

2

Sustainable

Implements the latest archival concepts and models.

Improves linking between descriptive elements.

Supports richer relations between records and agents.



ARCHIVES★RECORDS
CHICAGO, IL | HYBRID
AUGUST 14TH–17TH 2024 | HILTON CHICAGO



3 Exchangeable

Focuses on EAD as a data encoding and exchange standard.

Enhances linked data support.

Supports relations comprehensively.

ARCHIVES★RECORDS
CHICAGO, IL | HYBRID
AUGUST 14TH–17TH 2024 | HILTON CHICAGO

4

Extensible

Streamlines specific elements into reusable ones.

Enables reuse of external formatting schemas.

Limits mixed content to three built-in elements.



ARCHIVES★RECORDS
CHICAGO, IL | HYBRID
AUGUST 14TH–17TH 2024 | HILTON CHICAGO

All info about the 2024 call for comments

- <https://www2.archivists.org/groups/technical-subcommittee-on-encoded-archival-standards-ts-eas/call-for-comments-revision-of-e-0>

ARCHIVES★RECORDS
CHICAGO, IL | HYBRID
AUGUST 14TH–17TH 2024 | HILTON CHICAGO

Some of the proposed changes

- camelCase
- Renaming and enhancements of elements and attributes
- Alignment with EAC-CPF (-> also a need for update of EAC-CPF)
- Changes in how to do formatting, adoption of using XHTML
- Relations

Creation of a new EAS standard for describing functions and activities

ARCHIVES★RECORDS
CHICAGO, IL | HYBRID
AUGUST 14TH–17TH 2024 | HILTON CHICAGO

EAC-F starting point

- Initial meeting in 2013
- During 2021-2024 a sub team of TS EAS have developed a suggestion with a White Paper and examples
- No webpage
- Current documentation:
<https://www2.archivists.org/groups/technical-subcommittee-on-encoded-archival-standards-ts-eas/call-for-comments-encoded-archiva>

What is EAC-F (EAF)?

- A description of the functions (processes) and activities that generate records and record groups
- Closely connected to EAD and EAC-CPF
- The third component for making EAS standards able to be RiC compatible
- Based upon the International Standard for Describing Functions (ISDF) published by ICA

Why?

The development of an XML standard to express archival functions is intended to expand the suite of encoded archival standards and provide a mechanism to standardize description of functions of corporate bodies. The proposed XML standard is based on ISDF and places great importance on the incorporation of established schemas like EAC-CPF and EAD, adherence to recognized ontologies and metadata models, and flexible options for defining functions in relation to other entities. These strategies ensure consistency, interoperability, and adaptability, to enhance the schema's usability and enable seamless integration with existing practices and systems

ARCHIVES★RECORDS
CHICAGO, IL | HYBRID
AUGUST 14TH–17TH 2024 | HILTON CHICAGO

A look at functions in EAC-CPF

- Why not just use EAC-CPF?
- <https://eac.staatsbibliothek-berlin.de/schema/v2/eac.html#elem-function>

```
<function>
  <term>Estate ownership</term>

  <descriptiveNote>
    <p>Social, political, and cultural role typical of landed aristocracy in England. The first Viscount Campden amassed a large fortune in trade in London and purchased extensive estates, including Exton (Rutland), and Chipping Campden (Gloucestershire). The Barham Court (Kent) estate was the acquisition of the first Baron Barham, a successful admiral and naval administrator (First Lord of the Admiralty 1805).</p>
  </descriptiveNote>
</function>
```

- More is needed to get a full understanding

Structure 1(3)

- **CONTROL AREA**
 - Administrative and maintenance information for the description
 - Follows the Control area in the EAS standards
- **IDENTITY AREA**
 - All needed identification of the function/activity
 - Follows the description of identities in EAC-CPF
- **CONTEXT AREA**
 - Information about, when purpose, history, legal framework and so on
 - Follows the description of context in EAC-CPF

Structure 2(3)

- RELATIONSHIPS AREA

- Information on how the function under description is related to other function documents. This includes the authorized form(s) of name of the related function, the type, and the category of the relationship to provide a hierarchical, temporal, or associative connection.
- Two ways
 1. Create a function description for each function and relate them by reusing the relationship elements of EAF.
 2. Create the main function description and incorporate all the related functions of any type as part of its description. (Think c's in EAD)

Structure 3(3)

- RELATING FUNCTIONS TO CORPORATE BODIES, ARCHIVAL MATERIALS AND OTHER RESOURCES
 - Information on how the function is related to other entities
 - Follows EAC-CPF and EAD relation area and encourages the use of external vocabularies to describe the relations

Examples

1. Example EAF
 - One description per EAF, connected through relations
2. Example EAF with all the description in the file
 - Think EAD and C's
3. Example EAD
4. Example EAC-CPF
5. All proposed EAF elements and attributes

Goal

- Soliciting use cases and feedback on this proposal so we can determine the feasibility and desire for a new complementary standard to EAD and EAC-CPF
 - Yes
 - Schema and Tag Library will be created
 - No
 - The White paper and example is free to use

Open mic

ARCHIVES★RECORDS
CHICAGO, IL | HYBRID
AUGUST 14TH–17TH 2024 | HILTON CHICAGO

First questions where we need your input

- How are you currently using the EAS standards?
- How can we improve them to better serve archivists in the U.S. and abroad?
- How can we best communicate these standards to ensure that the archival community is engaged in the development and ongoing revision of standards?
- What are the barriers for you to use EAS standards as well as other standards?

ARCHIVES★RECORDS
CHICAGO, IL | HYBRID
AUGUST 14TH–17TH 2024 | HILTON CHICAGO

Provide us with your input!

- What are your thoughts?

ARCHIVES★RECORDS
CHICAGO, IL | HYBRID
AUGUST 14TH–17TH 2024 | HILTON CHICAGO

ARCHIVES★RECORDS
CHICAGO, IL | HYBRID
AUGUST 14TH–17TH 2024 | HILTON CHICAGO

TACK!
TS EAS

